**History of Broomball**

**Broomball can be traced back to the early 1900s when**[**rail**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rail_transport)**workers discovered broomball to be a productive way to pass the time during the winter months. The sport was played on icy surfaces about the size of today's**[**hockey rinks**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hockey_rink)**, surfaces such as lakes, ponds and rivers.**

**The exact origin of the sport has been difficult to pin point. It has been documented by**[**Barrie**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Barrie)**,**[**Ontario**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ontario)**that locals used**[**Lake Simcoe**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lake_Simcoe)**as a place for fun competition of the sport. However, the**[**First Nations**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/First_Nations)**peoples in the area are believed to have passed the sport on to the**[**settlers**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Settler)**.**

**The Canadian Broomball Federation was founded in 1976. During the 1975 "national broomball tournament" in**[**Montreal**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Montreal)**,**[**Quebec**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Quebec)**it was decided that the sport needed a** [**governing body**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sport_governing_body)**. The members of the**[**Alberta**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alberta)**Broomball**[**Association**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sports_club)**met with representatives of other**[**Canadian provinces**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Canadian_provinces)**and formed what is today the Canadian Broomball Federation.**[**[4]**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Canadian_Broomball_Federation#cite_note-History_of_Broomball-4)

**In the 1980s, the CBF developed the National**[**Coaching**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Coaching)**Certification Program to focus on the youth in the sport.**

**Equipment**

**Player Equipment Consists of:**

**• Broomball Shoes**

**• Broomball pants**

**• Broomball stick**

**• Ball**

**• Knee Pads**

**• Elbow Pads**

**• Helmet**

**• Gloves**

**• Team Jersey**

**• Goalie: Blocker**

**Time -** A broomball game consists of two periods. There are two 18 minute, stop time periods, with a two minute break in between.

**Off-side -**Off-side is called when a player from the team in possesion of the ball enters the offensive zone before the ball. The center red line is the 'in/out' line in Broomball, as the blue line is used in hockey.

**High Stick -**Typically a high stick is anything above the shoulder. Some leagues and tournaments mark it above the waist. A high stick results in a two minute penalty.

**Penalties** - Penalties and infractions are virtually similar to hockey penalties.

**Icing -**Icing occurs when the defending team clears the ball from inside their zone and across the opposing team's goal line. No touch up icing is in effect so the whistle is blown as soon as the ball crosses the goal line. Icing is still called when a team is short handed as well.

**The Rink** - The rink should be as close as possible to 200 feet long and 85 feet wide. Corners are rounded in the arc of a radius of 20 feet. The net is 6 feet high and 8 feet wide in USA play. Internationally, smaller, hockey-sized nets are used.

**The Ball** - Official Broomballs are labeled with the words "official broomball." For Indoor play the ball is a made of a hard orange molded rubber that is slightly larger than a softball and is about 5" in size.

**Players** - A team must have at least six players: goalie, right and left defense, center, and right and left wing. A maximum of twenty players, including goalies, may dress and play in a game. When making substitutions, the player coming off the ice must be within arm's reach before the substitute enters the ice.

**What is Broomball like today?**

Since the inception of the CBF, the sport has developed significantly with the introduction of technical programs, safer regulated equipment, and rules of the game administered by qualified referees. Competition includes men, women and mixed categories at all ages. Canada is also leading the way for juvenile development in the sport and has introduced programs for 19 and under in all categories of recognized competition.

The sport is fast, exciting and very entertaining at the of elite competition level. The CBF realizes the importance of focusing on the youth of today by adopting the National Coaching Certification Program in the late 80’s. Unlike the pioneers of the game, today’s elite athlete is trained by a certified NCCP coach making the sport of broomball a very demanding cardio vascular team sport for the participants to appreciate. Canada has a flourishing membership of 19,000 registered members and another 15,000 participants at various recreational levels and age groups including the elementary and secondary school systems.

The Canadian Broomball Federation has provided the leadership in the sport internationally which is now enjoyed in 16 countries around the world and regulated by the International Federation of Broomball Associations of which Canada was a founding member. A World Championship is scheduled every two years on the even year. Past international events have been hosted in Canada, USA and Italy.